STATEMENT

Foreign Direct Investment in Mining Sector

Mineral	State	No. of Mines	Production
Gold metal	Andhra Pradesh	03	05 177 Kgs.
(primary)	Karnataka	05	1832 kgs.
Diamond	Madhya Pradesh	02	40666 carats
Mica (crude,	Rajasthan	09	473 tonnes
waste & scrap)	Bihar	14	571 tonnes
	Andhra Pradesh	22	1268 tonnes
Iron Ore	Andhra Pradesh	03	340000 tonnes
	Orissa	66	11921000 tonnes
	Bihar	18	11913000 tonnes
	Madhya Pradesh	15	18582000 tonnes
	Maharashtra	03	25000 tonnes
	Karnataka	57	15681000 tonnes
	Goa	47	15002000 tonnes
	Rajasthan	03	10000 tonnes
	Haryana	01	1000 tonnes

Closure of Slate Mines in Himachal Pradesh

2896. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether closure of slate mines in Himachal Pradesh in the past has rendered several Mine Labourers unemployed;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the number of labourers unemployed;

(c) whether the State Government has been requested to revive mining in these mines with scientific methodology or provide alternative jobs to the unemployed labourers;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to intervene in the matter in the interest of employment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (e) As per the information furnished by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, no mining lease has been granted for slate as a major mineral in Himachal Pradesh. Slate is also reckoned as a minor mineral when used as building stone under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Mineral concessions for slate as a minor mineral in the State of Himachal Pradesh are being granted under Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) Revised Rules, 1971. As per the information furnished by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, there are 468 number of Slate mines functioning at present in the State but 430 working pits of Slate mines were closed in the last five years resulting in loss of employment to about 4200 mine labourers. These pits were closed down due to the enforcement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has further stated that in order to provide jobs to persons rendered unemployed an area of 25 hectares in Khanyara (forest land) has been identified where safe and scientific mining can be carried out provided the necessary clearance for diversion of forest land is granted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Demand for Indian granite in international market

2897. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for Indian granite has declined in the international market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the countries to which granite is being exported at present;

(d) whether Government propose to explore the possibility of export of granite to the South East African countries where Indian granite was in great demand; and

(e) what is the position of Indian granite in Taiwan and Japan at present?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (b) As per export performance, International demand for Indian granite has generally shown a mixed trend. However, as per Industry estimate, demand for Indian granite has shown some revival during the last two years (1998-99 to 1999-2000).